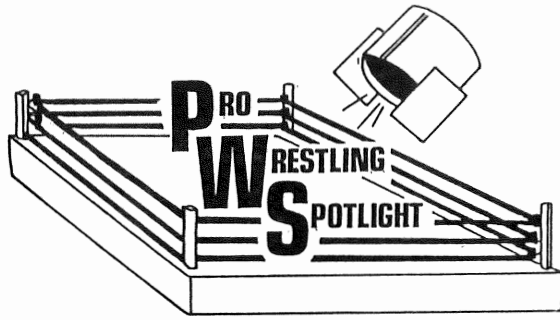




WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 24, 1992

VOLUME I, NO. 7

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L.O.D. L.O.S.E. WWF TAG TEAM TITLE

by JOHN AREZZI



The Legion of Doom lost the WWF Tag Team Titles to Irwin R. Shyster (Mike Rotunda) and "The Million Dollar Man," Ted DiBiase on Friday night February 7th in Denver, Colorado. New champs, IRS and DiBiase were assisted by the Natural Disasters, Typhoon and Earthquake, with Typhoon hitting Hawk of the LOD with a chair, causing the pinfall.

The loss of the tag titles fuels speculation of the future of the LOD in the WWF. Their current contract with Titan Sports expires in June and rumors persist of the LOD going to Japan, WCW, or both. Insiders tell **PWSW** of an angry LOD in the Denver locker room regarding the loss, perhaps stemming from the presence of TV cameras to document the match. Reportedly, Hawk and Animal were adamant that there be no TV cameras present during the match. We understand cameras arrived midway during the show and set up during intermission. The tag match was the first match after the intermission.

The LOD won the tag titles on August 26, 1991 at Madison Square Garden in New York City, defeating the Nasty Boys during the annual "Summer Slam" Pay Per View show. They were the first tag team ever to hold the NWA, WWF, and AWA championship belts.

As far as the tag team match ups for Wrestlemania VIII, look for the LOD to meet the Natural Disasters in a revenge match, and, new champions, DiBiase and IRS to meet Hacksaw Jim Duggan and Sgt. Slaughter.

THE RUMOR MILL

At press time we have heard reports that Hulk Hogan has entered negotiations with Antonino Inoki and New Japan Pro Wrestling for unspecified reasons...WCW announcer Missy Hyatt has reportedly been inked to a new two year deal. In our first **Rumor Mill** column we heard Missy's contract would not be renewed, which was wishful thinking by some WCW insider. Congrats Missy...James Buster Douglas might be getting back into the ring. The only thing is, it might be a wrestling ring. The man who knocked out Mike Tyson is rumored to be negotiating a mixed match with a prominent Japanese wrestling figure...Dr. Death Steve Williams and Terry "Bam Bam" Gordy met with WCW booking reps last week to talk about a deal to return them both to the organization by the February 29th "Superbrawl" in Milwaukee. The problem was, K. Allen Frey, the man who could negotiate \$ was on the west coast, trying to iron out a long term deal with Barry Bloom for the services of his client, Jessie Ventura. Williams and Gordy reportedly left in a huff...Papa Shonga looked monstrous in his WWF debut. The former "soul taker" looked like he gained an extensive amount of bulk in the past several months. He's never looked that "out" before. I bet it was the special "potion" he took to enter the land of the muscled...Is Tony Rumble out of the IWCCW? Yes, is the word we get. Tony, "The Boston Bad Boy" put his heart and soul into the Savoldi Run organization, but apparently had enough and quit. Don't you ever wonder how this company remains on Sports Channel with the inferior product being broadcast? I mean, it doesn't even look like they are trying...Ultimate Warrior rumor of the week. Heard from a source that Warrior was seen working out in a gym in New Mexico. When approached for an autograph Warrior said, "I want to forget that part of my life," and politely declined the request...Is John Tulus ready to speak out about his "being used" in the WWF? We'll investigate...NY Mets ace relief pitcher John Franco seen in deep conversation with Hawk from the LOD at the Press Box Cafe in Bay Ridge, NY. Both celebrities hang out at the hot sports bar located right near the Verrazano Bridge in Brooklyn. We'll be there broadcasting the **Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Hour** live on February 23rd, with our special guest Jim Cornette. Call me at (516) 698-0109 if you'd like to join us. With the next Madison Square Garden show also scheduled that afternoon, whooooo knows who might drop in at the Press Box. It's well known that WWF champ Ric Flair and Jim Cornette are very good friends. We'll see you there!

Late breaking news -- at press time we were trying to confirm reports regarding the death of pro wrestler Buzz Sawyer (Bruce Woyan) age 33 in Sacramento, California. No other details were available, with the exception that a probable drug overdose was involved.

THE PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY IS DISTRIBUTED AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

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PRO WRESTLING REGULATION BILL SHOT DOWN IN FLORIDA

by JOHN AREZZI

In a short subcommittee meeting, Florida State's Committee on Regulated Industry shot down the bill to regulate pro wrestling by an 8-1 vote. The meeting which took place February 7th in Tallahassee, lasted only 30 minutes.

The bill was introduced by legislative analyst Janet Clark who was unable to attend the meeting due to a recent illness. Janet put her heart into this bill and **PWSW** wishes her well.

Both the WWF and WCW were threatening to pull all future shows out of Florida if the bill passed. It would have required steroid testing for all wrestlers working in Florida, and promoters staging events with unannounced no-shows would have been required to refund attending ticket holders.

WWF FOX TV SPECIAL

HO(HUM)GAN SPLITS WITH SID

by JOHN AREZZI

In a show that was crammed with too many interviews and commercials and not enough wrestling, the WWF aired its first Fox Network Special. The show ran on Saturday, February 8th at 9pm EST and was a yawner.

The first annoyance was the "new" crowd responses dubbed in for the "Royal Rumble" recap. Instead of Hogan being booed for eliminating Sid Justice, you heard adulation. As the two argued, a dubbed "Hogan...Hogan" chant was heard.

Lacking many positives, it did get Sid over as a heel, which was needed and hinted to a major angle with Brutus Beefcake. Beefcake needs plenty of sympathy to help put over Hogan who will be pulling out of the Wrestlemania match with Flair. Look for Beefcake to catch a beating soon. The results:

RODDY PIPER PINNED THE MOUNTIE - After a ref bump, the Mountie threw a cup of water on Piper and zapped him with the "shocker." Piper was wearing a wet suit under his t-shirt, so he didn't get "shocked." He then zapped the Mountie, the ref recovered to count the pin.

HULK HOGAN AND SID JUSTICE DEFEATED RIC FLAIR AND THE UNDERTAKER BY DISQUALIFICATION - The turn you've seen a dozen times before. Hogan gets pummelled while Sid ignores Hulk's attempts to tag him. Beefcake runs in to save Hogan and is cornered by the two heels. Hogan then saves the Beefer and the two leave together, probably to go partying at a local saloon.

SGT. SLAUGHTER AND HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN DEFEATED THE BEVERLY BROS - No comment.

RANDY SAVAGE PINNED JAKE THE SNAKE ROBERTS WITH THE ELBOW OFF THE TOP ROPE - Best match of the show. Both worked hard. How about the nifty new sound effects when Randy's head gets slammed into the ring post? BOIINNGG! Reminded me of the "GLOW" sound effects during the David McClaine promotions heyday. If you taped the show check it out for a laugh.

In summary, it was a watered down version of the one time successful NBC format. I wonder if there will be one next year. Only time and ratings will tell.

HOW WE DOIN'?

by JOHN AREZZI

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Weekly has now been in existence for seven weeks. Boy, I never knew how tough it would be to put out a weekly newsletter. Between the deadlines and wondering how your work is being accepted, it is pretty stressful. Despite the negatives I can honestly say I've enjoyed the experience so far.

As I told you in our first editorial, **PWSW** was not going to try to be another **Wrestling Observer**. Dave Meltzer does a job no one else could duplicate. He is the N.Y. Times of pro wrestling. Wade Keller of **The Pro Wrestling Torch Weekly** is also to be commended on his fine **News Weekly**. Aside from the "big two" (since **Matwatch** bid us farewell) there are many other publications that are rewarding to read for one reason or another. So then, where does **PWSW** fit in?

I believe this publication is going to be a cross between a N.Y. **Daily News**, **People Magazine** and a "spy magazine" of the pro wrestling world. We will cover breaking stories, do features, and be sarcastic in our coverage of the mat game. My role is to be the "serious" reporter. I am going to be covering the hard news, the rumors, the analysis of big shows, as well as bring you flashes from the past with "Mat Memories". Vince Russo will take a more lighthearted approach and "call it like he sees it."

We will not always agree with each other, then again, this publication would be dull if we did. It might be difficult but we are going to try to please the casual fan, and the hard core sheet reader.

Since Steve Beverly's **Matwatch** is now just a fond memory, **PWSW** will (beginning with next issue) provide TV ratings and Pay Per View buy rates as soon as they are made available.

We are also looking for regular contributors to write monthly columns. If you have an idea send it or call.

PWSW will also continue with the fine drawings, which have really become a favorite of our subscribers. All in all, I am very excited about the coming year.

Most important, I want to know what **you, the reader**, think. Your likes, your dislikes and your suggestions.

Finally, we are not going to be just "another sheet." With our distribution through comic book stores, fast food establishments, wrestling shows, orders through the radio show and mail order subscriptions, **PWSW** will be reaching the fan who knows just the WWF, along with the hard core fan who reads all the newsletters. We want to entertain, inform, and educate our readers. In our attempts we may alienate some who would like this to be another "Wrestling Observer." **PWSW** will be a little bit of everything for every wrestling fan and hope for the best. Thanks for reading **PWSW**.

LAYING IT ON THE LINE

by VINCE RUSSO

There are a few things I wish to get off my chest this week. The first is that I am sick and tired of Hulk Hogan bashers. Those who choose to bash the Hulkster do it for one reason, and one reason only -- **jealousy**. All the Hulk Hogan critics who are involved in the wrestling business

should store one small detail in the back of their little opinionated minds -- if it weren't for Hulk Hogan they wouldn't have jobs. Terry Bollea has made professional wrestling what it is today. Like it or not.

My question is -- how long are the bashers going to harp on the steroid issue. Yes, Hulk Hogan may have made a mistake, however, allegedly taking steroids was not it. Insiders say that some 90% of professional wrestlers today are on the juice. That's the nature of the business -- to look good. Hulk's mistake came when he "allegedly" lied to millions of children on the Arsenio Hall show. But the bottom line is this: he's human and we all make mistakes.

I personally don't care who's on steroids, or who's not. It's their life, not mine. The only thing that I say is that if you are caught with your hand in the cookie jar, fess up.

Another item which really irritated me this week was the reports that Hulk Hogan was seen taking cocaine on an airplane in 1983. You know what? Who the hell cares. What Hulk Hogan does with his personal life is not my business. And to add to that, if you don't think that half of Hollywood and a good portion of professional athletes haven't tried cocaine at one time or another, then you had better get your head examined. In my opinion this is not reporting, it's bashing.

Which brings me to my third problem. Sheet writers in general take reporting on professional wrestling way too seriously. This is the world of make believe fellas. A world where grown men carry reptiles to the ring, wear make-up, and dress up in funny costumes. You ever hear of Disneyland? Well it's kind of like that. Professional wrestling is supposed to be nothing but entertainment. I think many sheet writers forget that and take their reporting too far. In my opinion, to try and cover this sport with a New York Times approach is pointless.

The **average** fan watches professional wrestling for the pure entertainment of it, they aren't the least bit interested in what's going on in Mexico or Japan. For goodness sake, I can't even pronounce the names of the Japanese wrestlers -- nor do I care to. People are more interested in when the Undertaker is going to turn babyface, and why. This is how I cover the sport. By the people, for the people. I am an entertainment critic, not a sheet writer. I feel I represent the common man. I am by no means an authority, however, 20 years of following the sport and a degree in Journalism from Indiana State University give me all the credentials I need.

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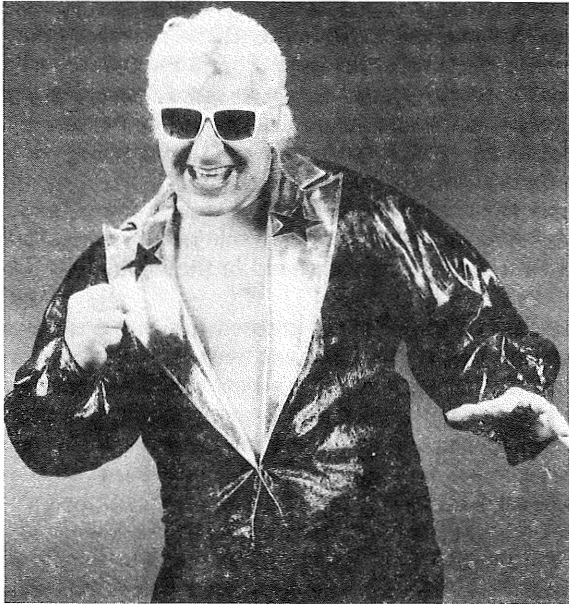
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW? INTERVIEW WITH JOHNNY VALIANT PART 2



This is the second part of the interview **PWSW** conducted with Luscious Johnny Valiant, talking about his career as one of the premier tag team specialists in pro wrestling history.

PWSW: *You later came back to the WWF as Brutus Beefcake's manager. What did you do between the time of the Valiant Brothers and managing Brutus Beefcake?*

JV: I worked independent shows here and there as a solo.

PWSW: *How did the situation with Brutus come about?*

JV: I got a call from Vince McMahon Jr. Preceding this I had managed Hulk Hogan in the AWA in Verne Gagne's territory. So Hulk Hogan knew me.

PWSW: *How long did you manage Hulk?*

JV: Six months. He had just completed the Rocky III movie in Japan and Verne had me come up to Minneapolis to talk about this fellow that was going to be on the AWA scene named Hulk Hogan. They showed me pictures of him, and preceding his arrival from Japan I spoke about him and gave the viewing audience some insights as to his capabilities and right on down the line. Then he joined me on television and I made personal appearances with him at the live matches.

He had a fellow with him by the name of Ed Leslie (Brutus Beefcake). Being that they are friends from Florida, people say that they are brothers, but they are not. They were training partners and mutual friends for a number of years down in the Tampa area. Ed accompanied Hulk on his trip from Florida to Minneapolis by car. The favor being, of course, that they would use this kid Ed Leslie, and break him in around the AWA. He was so horrible, that after a couple of months they had to ship him down to Portland, Oregon to wrestle. Hulk

remained behind, and I stayed on as his manager for the duration. Hulk's first appearance was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was to be a villain because of his appearance, and his connection with me. However, the response to Hulk in his first match in Milwaukee was so positive that the fans literally carried him out on their shoulders. The AWA figured that this was somebody they were looking for to pick up the box office for years. Since the likes of the Crusher, they had never seen anybody like this. So they phased me out because they figured that his association with me would hold him back.

PWSW: *So I guess Leslie came back when he was ready.*

JV: He stayed out in Portland, Oregon to time up. How this came about was one day I get a phone call at my house and Hulk was on the phone with Vince McMahon. They asked me if I would be willing to come in to manage this guy Brutus Beefcake. "You know who he is". I said, "no, I really don't." Sure enough it was this kid Ed Leslie.

PWSW: *How long did you manage Beefcake?*

JV: I managed him for a couple of years, and then they put him together with Valentine. I managed those two as a team and they best **Barry Windham** and **Mike Rotunda** to win the tag-team titles. That's when I put the cigar out on Barry Windham.

PWSW: *Were they the only tag-team champions you managed?*

JV: I managed the Destruction Crew in the AWA I also managed Demolition for a short time. They then put Fuji in there. They wanted him to paint his face and all.

PWSW: *When were you phased out of the WWF?*

JV: Well, I had Valentine and Beefcake as champions at this point. They were defeated by the Bulldogs at the Wrestlemania show. Now Dino Bravo enters the picture, and we leave Beefcake behind in a match. Now it's just Bravo and Valentine being managed by me. I then did some commentating with Monsoon, joined by Heenan, and vice-versa. The first wrestling challenge at the time was Monsson, myself, and Ernie Ladd of all people.

Valentine then goes to the office and indicates he doesn't want to work tag-team anymore. They then split up. They put Jimmy Hart with Valentine, and fellow Canadian Frenchy Martin with Bravo. Johnny Valiant is once again out in the cold.

PWSW: *Johnny, I speak to so many wrestlers who are at one time on top of the hill of the WWF, and then for some reason or another they are left out in the cold. How was it in the end for you?*

JV: More or less the same way. Vince called one day and said "We're cutting back on the roster and you are one of the guys we are going to be omitting." I said to him "It's been mutually nice on my part and if there is anything in the future I can be part of, keep me in mind." That was it.

PWSW: *You mentioned earlier that you are now doing comedy. Can you tell me about this?*

JV: In the late 80's I was introduced to Craig DeGeorge's brother, Rickie Minervene. He interviewed me and broke me into comedy. It was very much like I was breaking into wrestling. Not green as grass because I did have a little bit of a reputation. I was used to being

in front of a lot of people, I had no fears whatsoever. Right now I'm working with people at the Tropicana to do shows on the Boardwalk.

PWSW: *Have you done any wrestling shows lately?*

JV: Once or twice a month. I don't see a future for myself in wrestling as it stands right now. I never like one person being in control of my destiny. McMahon, the genius that he may be has certainly had a lot of success, no doubt about it. He has made a bundle of money for himself, as well as other people. But there are so many slots for people to be in, managers, commentators. Like anybody else, you have to realize that.

PWSW: *How do you feel about the steroid issue?*

JV: It's obvious in wrestling. If there's a way a wrestler can get ahead, or have an edge on the other guy, he's going to go ahead and use it.

PWSW: *Do you feel that promoters today have a hand in that. As far as promoting the bigger and the stronger?*

JV: No, I feel that the fellows do it because it would bestow their careers if their appearance became a lot larger, a lot more defined, or a lot more sculptured. I would think that some promoters set a high precedence on the fellows, that if they don't look a certain way, they would be passed by others who did. I really don't think that Vice or anybody else has set a goal with a tape measure that fellows have to be such and such to be considered. It's very competitive out there. Sometimes they bit off more than they can chew.

PWSW: *Do you see more and more wrestlers getting off the stuff, or do you think they are in too deep?*

JV: I think you could be right. Medically speaking the reasons out there for not using it are very obvious. Alcohol has it's effects on people as does marijuana and cocaine. Others abide by those medical decisions that come down whereby others ignore it.

PWSW: *What does the future of professional wrestling hold?*

JV: It may come back to the way it was years ago. Local TV having the local little town they run - possibly. That would be one way. That would come about if it were abolished from television. Maybe someday some program director, or the FCC would say that we've had enough of this, if it's going to continue to go on this way, we are going to take this stuff off the air. Who knows? Movies can be cleaned up, MTV can come off the air, there has to be a pint where they peak out. Who really know though. Ed Note: Johnny Valiant called to say he will be in two movies: **Hoffa** with Jack Nicholson, directed by Danny DeVito, and **Innocent Blood** with Don Rickles & Robert Loggia.



JOHNNY RODZ

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KUNG FU

THE MAKING OF A CHAMPION

by VINCE RUSSO

Beginning this week I am going to attempt something that I don't believe has been done before. I have discovered a "physical monster" of whom I am going to have trained to become a professional wrestler. To add to that, I am also going through the training in order to become my client's personal manager. Yes, you may be thinking this has probably been done a million times before by those sick enough to do so, however this time is different. During my venture I am going to take the readers of **PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY** along with me every step of the way. You are going to get first hand information on exactly what it takes to become a professional wrestler or manager. The ups, the downs, the trials and the tribulations -- you will be there for the entire ride. If we fail, you will suffer our disappointment, and if we succeed, you will share our excitement.

Let me begin by telling you about my find. His name is Bo Davis. He is a 29-year-old black American, with a body out of the mold of a gladiator. He stands 6'4" and tips the scale at 310 pounds. He powerlifts at Gold's Gym five times a week, and bench presses in the vicinity of 565 pounds. Mr. Davis has never taken a steroid in his life. As he puts it, "I already weigh 310 pounds, what do I need steroids for?" Bo is also a two time Golden Gloves champion, and he has these magnificent green eyes that gives him that "special" look. He is extremely athletic, but has never wrestled a day in his life.

As his manager I stand 6' and weight approximately 185 pounds. I also don't possess any wrestling background, however I do throw my 4 year old and 1 year old sons around pretty good. Needless to say I am heavyweight champion of my household (although the 4 year old almost got a three count of me this past week).

There you have it, the monster and the brain. Now all we need is the proper training and education. If you think for one minute that you can become a professional wrestler without proper training -- **forget it!** I have seen many independent shows with wrestlers that train properly, and others who don't, and believe me you can see a significant difference. Training to become a professional wrestler never stops. The more you put into it, the more you will get from your craft.

To become the best you must be trained by the best. There is only one place to go -- Johnny Rodz' School of Professional Wrestling, located at the world famous Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. This may seem to be a paid ad, but it's not. There are three reasons why I chose Rodz' school, 1) this man wrestled in the WWF for 24 years. As a matter of fact he could probably throw around half of the wrestlers in the WWF today. He has done everything in the world of wrestling that one man could possibly do. The bottom line is Johnny Rodz is professional wrestling. 2) I have seen a few of his students wrestle. One is Skull Von Krus. This kid can wrestle, I recently saw him on a card in Staten Island and his ability outshone the others. Skull's top notch training was obvious. 3) Honesty. Where in 1992 can you find a man that closes a deal on a handshake? No contracts, no clauses. That's the type of man that Johnny Rodz is.

We began our workout with introductions. As Johnny put it, "Everything is an introduction." We first learned a basic lock-up. Just locking up with the "unpredictable one" was a treat for me. We locked-up again, and again, and again. With Johnny you do it until you do it right. That's what made him a successful teacher.

Then we were taught "simple rolls." "Simple" rolls weren't too simple for me, or my 310 pound friend. At first Bo was hesitant to roll, I think you can understand how a man that size may be reluctant to hit the canvas. But again "Coach Johnny" had Bo doing some 15-20 rolls before the day was out. You quickly learn that the training is mental as well as physical.

On the drive home, following the workout, Bo Davis was all psyched up. Was this the same man who was afraid to roll only one hour earlier? That's what mental training is all about. Johnny felt that he had to instill trust in Mr. Davis, and on this day he did exactly that.

JIM CORNETTE AND PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT ENTERPRISES ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF FIRST "EARLY DAYS" VIDEO

by JOHN AREZZI

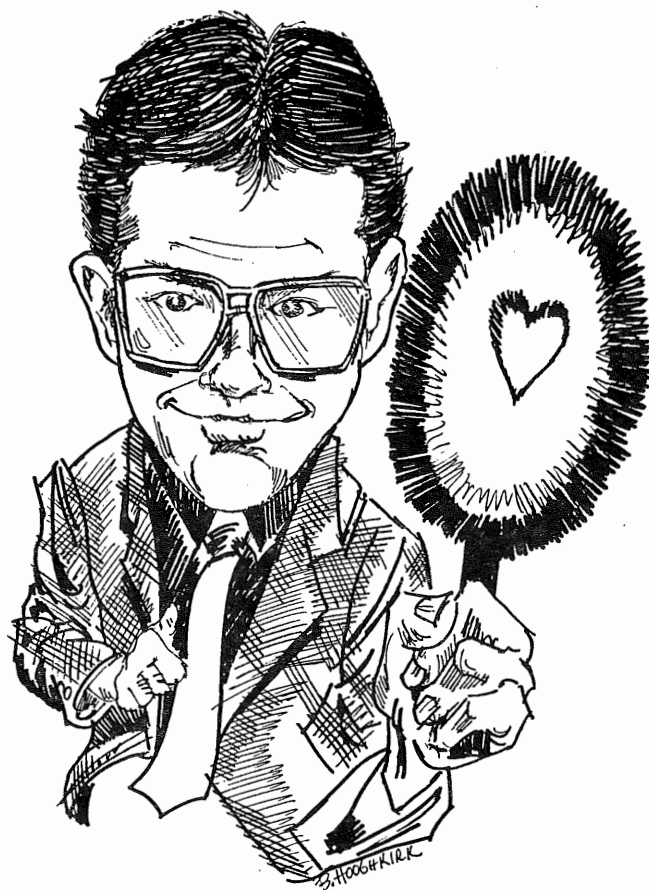
Jim Cornette was a guest on the February 9, 1992 edition of **The Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Hour** to announce the release of a three volume video entitled "Jim Cornette and the Midnight Expresses Early Days." Jim put the three two-hour videos together (6 hours total) from footage from his vast collection. He also spoke about some other topics on the radio show concerning his career and immediate future. Below are some of his comments.

On his possible return to WCW: "On Jim Herd's departure -- just because you remove the biggest, most cancerous growth from the head of the Elephant Man you won't make him look like Tom Cruise. People have been calling me and asking me that question. I'm still not interested. I don't care about anything those people are doing, and I wish them all the luck in the world. I'm not interested and I'm not doing it."

On any imminent plans or going to the WWF: "The problem with a national promotion is just that, it's a national promotion. The WWF is doing great guns these days with Flair being the champion, and with their television programs. I haven't watched WWF stuff in years, and now I'm watching it. But, I'm happy being around home, and happy with what I'm doing. To me it's (WWF) still not wrestling but it's better than what the WCW is foisting on people these days. That's a reversal. Who would have thunk it?"

On his putting together the "early days" video: "I guess I am the biggest wrestling video collector in creation. I know a lot of fans who listen to your show and read the newsletters are into video tapes. I've saved everything from the get go on my career and I gave John too much stuff. He wanted one tape and I gave him three. But there is so much stuff that nobody has seen yet. A collection that has never been on TV. A lot of the

Midnight Express stuff and my antics when we came to the NWA, people already have. What we've done with



this set of tapes is to go back farther. We give you an idea of what Bobby Eaton, Stan Lane, Dennis Condrey and myself did before we all got together in Louisiana and Dallas, Texas.

"There is a lot of dynamite stuff on here that's never before been seen.

"The earliest stuff on the tape is from 1975 on Dennis Condrey. There is perhaps the first music video on wrestling, on Condrey and his partner David Shults, that was from 1980. There is Bobby Eaton wrestling Tommy Rich from 1980. Also Condrey bringing in a young guy by the name of Stan Lane to be his partner. We have an early match from Memphis where Lane and Bobby teamed up, when both were members of Jimmy Harts first family.

"There is my first interview as a wrestling manager. People think they have that but they don't. My first interview only aired in Memphis. Sensational Sherri and I together, my first match in the Mid South Coliseum. The introduction of the Fabulous One's, and so much more. Everyone who was involved in the early incarnations of the Midnight Express is on the tape."

Each volume is just \$24.95 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. All three volumes \$75.00, which includes shipping and handling. When you order the three volume set you will also get a personally signed letter from Jim

Cornette. Send to Pro Wrestling Spotlight Enterprises. 99 Middle Country Road, Coram, NY 11727. More details next week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PLAUDITS

I have just received Vol 1 #4 of **PWSW** and I had to write. This newsletter is outstanding! Each week it continues to get better. Everything is excellent from the cover story to **Mat Memories**. Keep up the good work.

Michael Houlihan, Levittown, NY

Congratulations in putting out an excellent newsletter that continues in the same tradition as your radio show. I enjoyed the free sample issues that were mailed and now have become a subscriber. Since there are so many newsletters available, many that just repeat information from others, it is important to have something different. John Arezzi's **Mat Memories** is very interesting. Donny Liable has an informative (and sometimes humorous) column. He's right about Undertaker and Fred Flintstone having the same tailor! Vince Russo's **Where Are They Now** interviews, as well as his reviews are also noteworthy. His editorial on The Ultimate Warrior in issue #2 was one of the best articles on the Warrior that I've ever read. By the way, Vince McMahon has worn the blue suit from 1981. Between 1975 and 1981 he wore a red jacket and a yellow one. When they were able to stand up by themselves he then changed to the blue suit.

Anthony Scala, Brooklyn, NY

PUNDITS

I just received Vol 1 #4 of **PWSW**. Your best effort yet. I enjoyed the entire bulletin with one exception - Vince Russo's **On the Tube**. I'm not sure how many of your readers are interested in reading such a detailed description of such a schlock show, especially if they watched it. I feel the space would be better utilized with more commentary by Vince, Don Laible or John Arezzi.

I thoroughly enjoyed **Mat Memories**, hope you have lots more stories to tell. Donny refreshed my memory when he mentioned Jack Witchi's Sports Arena as one of his favorite buildings. This place was dumpier and smaller than the Dallas Sportatorium. I would go there once in a while until it burned down.

The photo is Kid Steamboat and Tor Kamata, which I believe was part of a tag match with Kamata and Brower vs. Steamboat and Youngblood from MSF.

Ron Lemieux, Editor

Arena Report, Lake Mary, Florida

KIP FREY

I've just read Part 1 of Kip Frey's press breakfast and I must say that I was very impressed with him and what he had to say. With the events of the past few weeks, I feel that the appointment of Mr. Frey has already had a tremendous impact on WCW. Of course, time will tell if WCW can continue on its current path, but as of now, I like what I see.

However, I'd like to make two suggestions. First, WCW needs more radio and print advertising of its house shows, Clashes and Pay Per View events. Especially here in the northeast.

Secondly, let's get rid of Van "Ham-and Egger" and

Vinnie "Lost Wages".

Anthony D. Lewis

Jamaica, NY

THE WRESTLING MENU

by DON LAIBLE

Hey, how can you not be excited about February 29th's **SUPERBRAWL II**? Anytime Rick Rude and Ricky Steamboat are in opposite corners of the ring, you're guaranteed to get your money's worth. Plus, Abdullah the Butcher and Cactus in a cage, if red isn't your favorite color then hit the fridge during their match. Jushin Liger and Brian Pillman no doubt will be one high spot after another however, personally I'd rather see Sabu flying around with "Tunder"...Nickname of the week goes to Marcus Alexander Bagwell by Larry Zbyszko who this past weekend on TV called him "Bagsmell."

How about it, what do you say -- let's vote on banning the clothesline under any circumstances. Isn't it the lamest laziest, no-talent move a million-plus times overused and undersold avenues of getting by for many so-called stars? And the coco butt has been crucified in the past...at least Bobo delivered a believable blow...By the way for those of you who read Wade Keller's **Pro Wrestling Torch Weekly** and took in the article on WCW's press conference in Kansas City, the representatives of the newsstand magazines asking questions to Kip Frey, WCW's new executive vice president were George Napolitano, Sandy Krebs and Craig Peters.

Turning back the wrestling clock, remember when full masks were banned in New York up until the mid-1970's? I can remember El Olimpico and The Black Demon wearing those cut out in the middle hoods where their faces were fully exposed...Great to see Scott Putski getting ring time with Global. When his dad "Polish Power" Ivan Putski worked for the WWF, I hear he had a tough time getting rides from fellow wrestlers, something about an attitude.

Looking to break into wrestling, look no further. Each week I'll list schools that come highly recommended. In New Jersey you can get in touch with "Iron" Mike Sharpe at 908-477-7117. "Killer" Kowalski operates a first-rate program outside of Boston. Write Kowalski at: PO Box 67, Reading, MA 01867 for details. If you're located in the mid-west, Bodyslammer's is run by Al Snow in Lima, Ohio, 419-228-0245.

All those of you who remember Buddy Wagner doing the TV ring announcing for WWWF cards -- smile...How can you not? I.R.S.- Mike Rotunda in the past has been billed as being from Syracuse, New York...Well, almost. Actually he's a native of Oswego, New York, a few miles away from the "Salt City"...Separated from birth (twins) -- Dave Meltzer and Actress Barbara Hershey. Don't believe me? Check out the January 27, 1992 issue of **People** magazine - page 68. The photo to the extreme left proves my theory.

Malcolm Monroe and The Sheik (Farhat) I am told are booked on a card in Detroit, March 21. The matches are supposed to be held at the Grand Quarters. Call Richard

at 313-538-8594 for ticket info...Did you know Hulk Hogan and Danny Hodge are the only two pro wrestlers ever to make the front cover of **Sports Illustrated**?

Chuck Langerman of Runnemede, New Jersey informs us that Ron Simmons was a teammate while in high school in Warner Robins, Georgia to current NFL running back James Brooks. Wonder how their football team's record was in their senior year? Important reminder -- "Killer" Kowalski's card in Jewett, Connecticut originally scheduled for April 5 has been moved to April 12 -- something else is going on in wrestling that day which may cut down on the attendance.

Sheldon Goldberg, PO Box 2372, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 puts out **Mat Marketplace**. \$2.50 gets you a bi-monthly issue that concentrates on memorabilia and merchandise on wrestling. Any serious collector not getting this is missing the boat -- big time! Rob Feinstein, 865 Greenridge Circle, Langhorne, PA 19053 has 400 videos to trade, including a 4 hour Liger tape...Anyone with Bob Orton, Jr. items is urged to contact David Spielberg, 15 Madison Street, Hartford, CT 06004...Bob Shattuck, 4223 Woburn Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44109 is looking to purchase wrestling auto- graphs...Steve Tobkes of West Hempstead, New York, 516-538-0775 wants to know the whereabouts of Ricky Starr, Paul Anderson, Argentina Zuma, among others...Let him know if the Undertaker took them (the real one), too...Chris Baxter, 53 Melrose Avenue, New Windsor, NY 12553 wants videos of Backlund cage matches with Snuka, Graham, plus the Snuka-Muraco cage match -- all from MSG.

Feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions on wrestling -- Donny Laible, PO Box 443, Iliion, NY 13357.

VIDEO CORNER

by VINCE RUSSO

***EXCELLENT
*** GOOD
** FAIR
* POOR

SCOTT STEINER-THE EARLY YEARS TRIPLE L PRODUCTIONS \$19.95

*** ½

This video captures the wrestler's early days (in the late 80's) when he wrestled as Scott Rechsteiner for the WWA in the Ohio area.

It's quite interesting to see the development of a champion unfold right before your eyes. In some of this first matches, Scott's wrestling maneuvers appear to be mechanic, almost text-bookish. As Steiner gains ring experience his techniques become polished and his true wrestling ability begins to shine through.

The first match on the tape pits "Rechsteiner" against the Assassin. This match is noteworthy because it is the first time Scott utilizes the "Frankensteiner." Scott delivers the move almost slow motion-like to make sure he does it right. The ring announcers aren't even sure

what to call the maneuver since they have never witnessed anything like it before. I guess you might call this "history in the making."

Another move which Scott used in his early matches was called the "superfly." With this move Scott climbs to the top rope, jumps off, and does a somersault in midair and then lands on the mat and covers his opponent. A high risk maneuver to say the least.

Scott's opponents featured on this tape are: Jason, Chris Carter, Bulldog Don Kerd and the Great Wo-Jo.

This videocassette is a must see for all Steiner Brothers fans, **and all women**.

WANT TO WRESTLE? NEW GAME LETS ANYONE DO IT

REPRINTED FROM THE POST-JOURNAL

Two huge, muscled men glare at each other and then, suddenly, they tear into one another with blinding speed, firing punches kicks, chops and fancy moves at each other until one of them falls to the mat.

The second giant drops on the fallen man and pins him in three seconds.

Is this a scene from the World Wrestling Federation?
No.

Is this a scene from new science fiction movie?
Nope.

Is it something from a comic book?
Wrong again.

It's just a part of the action of **Champions of the Galaxy**, a wild and fast-paced action wrestling game created by Tom Filsinger.

He is a fan of comic book action and wrestling, and has combined the two in a unique game quite unlike anything else.

There are 48 wrestlers, managers and valets in the game, with heroes and villains. Each wrestler is represented on a sturdy 5½-inch-by 4¼-inch card with statistics on the back and a striking artist's rendering of the wrestler on the front.

The drawings, by artist Chuck Carter, portrays the wrestlers in comic book art style. The effect is to make the heroes larger than life and at the same time realistic.

Filsinger started with actual World Wrestling Federation wrestlers and wanted to market the game through the WWF.

Filsinger said the WWF kept changing its mind about whether it wanted to market the game or not and finally decided to go with a game with Milton-Bradley because they were a nationally established company. The Milton-Bradley wrestling game is designed more for young children.

He said the first edition of the game, which he markets by mail order, sold well enough to warrant a second edition and a third. He said he expects new editions as an annual event game fans can look forward to.

He said there was enough interest in the game to cause some players to form a fan club. Club Galactica is headquartered in Frostburg, Maryland. According to Filsinger, there are about 60 members. The club issues a monthly newsletter and helps players keep track of the

never-ending, always-changing plot lines in the game.

For more information about the fan club, write to Club Galactica Headquarters, Mark Ashby, 60 Victoria Lane, Frostburg, MD 21532.

The strengths of the game are its realism and fast pace. It actually is about as fast as pro wrestling and flows in an easy-to-play, easy-to-understand and easy-to-follow manner.

Filsinger said it is a fun game and is good for children's imaginations.

"One of the most important parts is people can take their imagination to the limits. They can do whatever they want to do with the game," Filsinger said.

Filsinger said the game is good for youngsters and teens because it isn't television.

"It's a game that stimulates a kid's imagination. They are participating in this. It's not like television where they are passive. It pays for itself very quickly," Filsinger said.

Anyone interested in the game can contact Filsinger at Filsinger Games, P.O. Box 945, Jamestown, NY 14702.

ON THE TUBE

PRIME TIME WRESTLING

USA NETWORK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1992

A Wrestlemania VII press conference? Are you kidding? Do you want us to believe in Santa Claus too? I've already told you Vince that it's a No-No to insult our intelligence. Where did this "press conference" take place? Who was invited to this "press conference?" For the sake of those who didn't know, this was not a real press conference. Everyone in attendance was either a paid actor (as is Jack Tunney) or a member of the Titan Sports staff.

Papa Shonga is introduced this week. A voodoo man. That's all the WWF needs. One more step towards good clean family entertainment. Junior just doesn't stop.

Another character to scare the hell out of the little kiddies. Talk about someone having a warped mind. I'll tell you right now, look for Papa Shonga to feud with the Undertaker. A match made in heaven.

Sherri Martel visited Paul Bearer at the Funeral Parlor. Bearer had the line of the month when he said, "Sherri, you look so lovely, so happy, so alive, have you been to a funeral?" (I hope you readers out there appreciate William Moody. As Paul Bearer, this guy is phenomenal. His facial expressions alone are enough to make you fall off your chair. The WWF had better stick with this character no matter which direction the Undertaker goes.) In this segment, Sherri proclaims her love for Shawn Michaels. This should be a good match. Sherri continues to be the hardest working manager in wrestling today.

Tatanka finally makes his wrestling debut. Don't tell me this is what we've been waiting for. This guy is a ham and egger with a skunk-like red strip for hair on his head. Wrestling-wise he showed me **nothing**. A tomahawk chop from the top rope? You could pay Crazy Horse from F-Troop fame to do the same thing, and I bet it would probably be more convincing. Come on, who's this guy going to beat -- Skinner? I could have sworn that I hear chants of "Outback Jack" from those in attendance.

Look Tonto, hook up your VCR, sit in front of your television, and watch Chief Jay Strongbow matches for about a year. That should give you a clue.

There were **NO** matches worth reporting this week.

Next week the Westminster Dog Show preempts Prime Time. **There is a God!**

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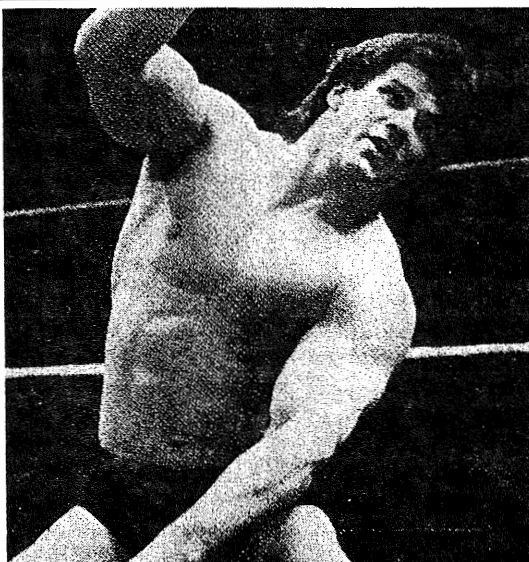
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WCW POWER HOUR

TBS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1992

Rick Rude introduced Marcus Alexander Bagwell to the rude awakening. However, before he could repeat it Sting came in for the save.

The Steiners, along with their partner Sting, defeated the team of Cactus Jack, Mr. Hughes, and Big Van Vader, when Sting pinned Hughes in the middle of the ring.

Question: Is Missy Hyatt doing her hair with a hand grenade these days?

MAT MEMORIES

by JOHN AREZZI

To this day, when I think back to the early 1970's the first thing that enters my mind is my days as president of **The International Fred Blassie Fan Club**. That experience was the forerunner to all my wrestling endeavors.

My first memories of Fred Blassie was reading about his causing a riot during a match with Bruno Sammartino back in the 60's. He seemed like a vicious animal in the early stories I read. Later on I read about his coming back from major injuries and illnesses to compete in the ring. In 1971 there were stories about is becoming a fan favorite in California. I became fascinated by this intense competitor. But it wasn't until November of '71 that I decided to do something about my slowly developing hero worship of "The Vampire."

Blassie had invaded the WWWF in hopes of getting the title from the then champion, Pedro Morales. IN all his televised matches before his program with Pedro, Fred would destroy his opponents, cutting them open from "biting" them on the head. The WWF censored these scenes by putting a big X on the screen.

That November night when Blassie made his way down the aisle at Madison Square Garden, a hush fell over the arena. Fred paced back and forth waiting for Morales. The match was wild, with the majority of the fans in a frenzy at the sight of Blassie biting Pedro's head. Every time Fred wrestled he caused the same reaction, fear and hatred by the fans.

Back in the 70's there were many fan clubs for wrestlers. To get publicity for them in magazines, you would send samples of your newsletter, membership rates, and most important, a copy of the signed permission slip from the wrestler authorizing the formation of the club. Fan club columnists Tom Burke, Jim Melby, and Georgiann Orsi (now Makropolous) would insist on the permission slip for a plug.

Getting Fred Blassie's permission to start a fan club was no easy task. I was only 14 years old at the time. I had no idea how to get in touch with Blassie. My only hope was to attempt to get into the dressing room at the Garden. It took me three months to get up enough nerve to try.

In February of 1972 I made my move. Armed with a five line "permission slip" I attempted to "slip" into the backstage area of Madison Square Garden. I nonchalantly walked past the curtain to the Garden dressing room and took exactly one step before a hand grabbed my shoulder and whisked me around. It was MSG security and I was about to be ejected from the building. On the verge of

tears, I explained what I was trying to do and convinced the security guard that all I wanted was to talk to Fred Blassie. One of the security guards took the permission slip and went into the dressing room. He came back five minutes later with a signed slip. The only question was how could I be sure it was Fred's legit signature?

A few months passed and I sent a letter to Jeff Walton who had handled the Blassie fan club years earlier. He verified Blassie's signature. By this time Fred had left the northeast for a tour of Japan and work in California. I started putting out my bulletin, which I called "King of Men." It was a labor of love. Each month I would send issues out to Fred Blassie via Jeff Walton. I would occasionally get a note from Jeff telling me that Fred enjoyed it.

In late January y of 1973, while watching the WWWF telecast, I found that Blassie had returned to the area. It caught me by surprise and I was thrilled at the prospect of finally getting the chance to meet Fred. All I had to do was somehow get him to clear a meeting with me. I didn't have to wait too long as in February I received my first letter from Blassie. He said he was looking forward to meeting me at the Garden on March 23rd and to bring the letter to the dressing room entrance.

Needless to say I couldn't sleep the night before the Garden show. Blassie was in the main event again against Pedro Morales. Before the show started I went to the dressing room, with my letter from Fred. The same two security guards were there. After an eternity of trying to explain that I was invited there by Fred, one guard went to get him. A few minutes later I was escorted to the back and introduced to Fred. I could hardly talk. I remember how tanned he was, with his white hair glistening. His handshake was firm, and his voice gravely. What struck me most of all was how friendly he was. I honestly did not know how he would be and was relieved when he was cordial. The meeting lasted all of five minutes, which I still remember like it was yesterday. I had my photo taken with him and did a short interview on cassette tape (which I still have).

After that first meeting I corresponded with Fred on a regular basis and was able to get to speak with him briefly at each show he appeared at. His support of my efforts gave me a lot of confidence in my work with the fan club newsletter. Before beginning the fan club I was a very shy and introverted person. The Fred Blassie Fan Club gave me an inward feeling of confidence and acceptance, culminating with winning the 1974 Wrestling Fans International Association award for "Best Monthly Fans Publication" and "Fan Club of the Year."

I really don't know where my life would have gone if I didn't start that fan club. Thanks again, Fred!

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